Madison Bavasso

Week 9 Response

11/3/14

Before reading the chapter on diversity I thought it would be difficult to share an experience with diversity in my own educational life. When I thought of diversity, I thought race and ethnicity, and how I am in the majority and haven’t experienced much diversity in that regard. I didn’t take into account the different kinds of ways one could be considered diverse in the educational world. After reading more in depth into the chapter I realized that I have had experiences with diversity in my own educational life. The one aspect that came to mind after reading chapter 7 was inclusion, and specifically an individualized education plan (IEP). In high school I had an IEP. I never thought of it as making me diverse or different but looking back I was in the minority. As far as I know, the majority of students in my high school did not have IEP's (obviously I am not sure of this but I assume 3/4 students in my high school didn’t have any IEP). This makes me diverse and in a minority in my educational life. At times it made me feel different and ostracized from other kids while I had to do things separately than the class, like take tests in another room or meet with the school psychologist regularly. But, for about 99.9% of the school day I was integrated with all the students and included, regardless of my IEP. I know being diverse in other ways isn't as easy as my educational diversity but I hope that equality is being exhibited in everyone's educational life; school is hard enough as it is.